

Public Comments on Amateur Service Rules:=====

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Comment: I do not agree with the Commission's proposal to amend Part 97 to grant examination credit for expired Amateur Radio licenses.

Successfully testing for a license class does not make an Amateur Radio operator. The learning process begins after licensing, when a new operator can legally communicate on the bands. A new Ham is guided by direct experiences on the air, as well as by receiving invaluable input from more seasoned operators. This reiterative process creates good operators, and this should be the objective of the Part 97 licensing rules.

An operator who maintains his/her license is more apt to have been active in the hobby, maintaining a day-to-day knowledge of rules and regulations, and using and improving the communications skills and technologies that are necessary to advance Amateur Radio and science and technology in general. If a Ham cannot find the time or inclination to renew a license, the chances are very good that this person has not contributed to the advancement of Amateur Radio, or even his/her own technical and communications skills within the past 10+ years.

The Commission is promoting growth in the quantity of operators, as opposed to promoting the quality of skills that the operators possess. As an active Amateur Radio Emergency Service participant, I can assure you that I would rather work with one quality, experienced Ham than five inexperienced former licensees who have been re-instated because they took a test 12 years ago. It is my position that examination credit for an expired license should indeed treat a former licensee differently.

Granted, there are exceptions to this scenario, and hardships may have forced a decent Amateur Radio operator to not renew his/her license within the appropriate time frame. If these operators have valid reasons for allowing their license to lapse, and wish to be re-instated, I believe that these requests should be considered by the Commission on a case-by-case basis.

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